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B O R O U G H O F B U R Y S T. E D M U N D S.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1941.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Wise and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 39th Annual Report on the Public Health Services. It is again restricted, for reasons of economy, almost entirely to statistics, with comparative figures for 1940 in brackets.

Infectious diseases did not reach the serious proportions recorded for 1940. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was little above the average, although for Diphtheria the figure was high. This is accounted for, in part, by a second outbreak at the West Suffolk General Hospital in the early part of the year, where 17 cases occurred, of which one died.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria was the subject of a national appeal and following the receipt of a Circular from the Ministry of Health in December 1940, local interest was stimulated. Thanks to the valuable assistance of Dr. Downie of the Department of Pathology, Cambridge, it was possible to arrange for the inoculation of Elementary School children in large numbers at the schools. Children under school age and others not attending an elementary school were dealt with at the School Clinic. At the end of September, it was estimated that something like 76% of children of school age and 30% of the under fives had been immunised. At the time of writing, a national campaign supported by local publicity is in progress, aiming particularly to secure the immunisation of children under 5 years of age. That this is meeting with success is evidenced by the increasing numbers coming to the Clinics for the necessary inoculations.

In conclusion, I would again thank the staff of the Public Health Department for all the help they have given me.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

E. STORK

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

There are no changes to be reported under this heading.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Figures for local populations have this year been omitted at the request of the Ministry of Health for reasons of national security.

Social conditions.- Outdoor relief. The figures for outdoor relief show a considerable decrease, both in numbers and cost.

Men	98	(142)
Women	158	(217)
Children	178	(211)
Total	434	(570)
Cost	£2792. 13. 11	(£3742. 13. 3)

Casuals.- The fall in the number of casuals is again very striking.

Men	419	(1412)
Women	0	(0)
Children	0	(0)
Total	419	(1412)

Vital Statistics.- The birth rate shows an increase over the previous year and is above that for England & Wales. Stillbirths again show an increase over 1940, but the Infant Mortality rate is considerably lower, being 42 per 1000 live births as compared with 64 for the previous year. The rate for England & Wales is 59.

The death rate is slightly higher . . . . . whereas that for the country as a whole shows a decrease. This is, however, a crude death rate, the Registrar General having found it impossible, owing to the variety and magnitude of local population movements, to issue a factor for areal comparability.

Live births -	Total		Male		Female	
legitimate	272	(225)	140	(115)	132	(110)
illegitimate	15	(9)	6	(5)	9	(4)

Birth rate per 1000 of Population	16.4	(13.7)
do do. England & Wales ...	14.2	(14.6)

Stillbirths.- Total	12	(9)	Males	9	(5)	Females 3 (4)
Rate per 1000 of population						.68 (.52)
do do. England & Wales						.51 (.55)
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ..						35.8 (37.0)

Deaths.-	Total		Male		Female	
	246	(236)	118	(108)	128	(128)

Death rate per 1000 of population	14.06	(13.8)
do. do. England & Wales ...	12.9	(14.3)

Deaths from Puerperal causes -

Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other maternal causes	1	(0)
Total	1	(0)
Rate per 1000 total births	2.9	(0)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age -	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	13 (17)	8 (9)	5 (8)
Illegitimate	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)

Rate, legitimate, per 1000 live births	42	(64)
do. do. England & Wales	59	(55)

Deaths from Cancer	37	(28)
" " Measles (all ages)	0	(0)
" " Whooping cough	1	(0)
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	(1)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These have been maintained without change or any reduction in their efficiency.

Infant and Child Welfare - The figures again show an increase and the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre has maintained its standard of efficiency as recorded in previous reports.

Number of Sessions	103	(98)
" attending Clinic - Infants under 1 year	202	(194)
" " " - Children over 1 year	255	(263)
Total number of attendances - Infants	1384	(1289)
" " " - Children	799	(977)
Health Visitors' Visits to Infants	1747	(1590)
" " " Children	2787	(2677)

Evacuees -

Number attending Clinic - Infants	55	(51)
" " " - Children	46	(73)
Total number of attendances - Infants	380	(207)
" " " - Children	241	(161)
Health Visitors' visits to Infants	336	(237)
" " " Children	584	(315)

The School Clinic treated 1430 individual children, with a total of 7427 attendances.

The Isolation Hospital.- 25 cases of Scarlet Fever and 33 cases of Diphtheria were treated. One case, diphtheria, died.

The Children's Act. Fourteen children have been kept under observation by Miss Osborne, their home conditions being uniformly satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water, drainage and sewerage. There were no important alterations under these headings.
Closet Accommodation. All closets are on the water carriage system.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools are all supplied with water from the public supply and connected with the public sewerage system.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.- The inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been maintained. One licence to bottle T.T. milk, one for the sale of T.T.(certified) milk and one for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk were issued

Meat and other foods. Three slaughterhouses, under the control of the Ministry of Food, remained in use throughout the year for the slaughter of animals for Bury St. Edmunds and surrounding districts. 9631 carcases were examined.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

This subject has been referred to in the introduction. It will be noticed that the Borough, in common with the Country generally, experienced an epidemic of Measles. It is satisfactory to be able to record that no fatal case occurred.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Diseases	Total number Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	34	23	0
Diphtheria	35	33	1
Typhoid Fever (Para-typhoid)	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	0	0
Pneumonia	30	0	6
Whooping cough	20	0	1
Measles	291	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0

The five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified, all occurred in Institutions. This shows that the Maternity services in the Borough, generally speaking, still stand on a very high level.

Vaccination.- The Vaccination Acts are administered according to the Law as it stands.

Prevention of Blindness. Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic deals with all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case was notified, which recovered without ill-effect.

TUBERCULOSIS. Seven male and seven female deaths were attributed to this disease.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	4	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	3	1	-	-	4	1	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	10	5	2	1	7	7	-	-

INQUESTS.

Nine inquests were held and thirteen deaths were certified by the Coroner without an inquest.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1941
IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S FIGURES.

		M	F
	ALL CAUSES	118	128
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping cough	-	1
5.	Diphtheria	1	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	7	7
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
9.	Influenza	1	3
10.	Measles	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	-
12.	Acute infectious Encephalitis	-	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	-	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	4
15.	Cancer of breast	-	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	14	8
17.	Diabetes	-	-
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	18
19.	Heart disease	24	37
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	5	6
21.	Bronchitis	10	4
22.	Pneumonia	2	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-
26.	Appendicitis	-	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	2
28.	Nephritis	7	4
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	-	1
31.	Premature birth	1	2
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	5	2
33.	Suicide	1	2
34.	Road traffic accidents	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	1	4
36.	All other causes	11	8

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